

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments to the claims and abstract before examination of the application is respectfully requested. These claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 010405.56312US).

Respectfully submitted,



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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~This invention concerns improvements relating to deployable booms. An articulated boom is provided comprising~~ comprises a support arm with ~~bend defining~~ a ~~number~~ plurality of hingedly-connected joints. The ~~[[, the]]~~ arm ~~[[being]]~~ is adapted and arranged to carry an antenna reflector so that in use, the reflector can move between a first stowed position in which the reflector is in folded condition and a second deployed position in which the reflector is in deployed condition. ~~This invention extends to~~ A spacecraft ~~(2)~~ ~~incorporating~~ incorporates into one or more of its sides a plurality of such articulated booms ~~(5, 15)~~. The support arms of the booms can be advantageously positioned at the circumference of the associated reflectors ~~(6, 16)~~ when in a stowed ~~condition~~ position, so ~~[[, such]]~~ as to allow the reflectors to be neatly stacked together within a space defined by the launch vehicle fairing. ~~(not shown). It is to be appreciated that the proposed structure finds utility in the support deployment of multiple antenna reflectors in various space missions if desired, and bears structural advantage in terms of weight saving, simplicity of design (by taking up less accommodation space) and efficient accommodation of its apertures/reflectors.~~